

Remarks

New claim 51 has been added leaving claims 1, 10, and 50-51 pending in the application. Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §113 (a) as being unpatentable over De Boer U.S. Patent Application No. 2006/0057826 A1) in view of Hegedus (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,874). Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 USC §113 (a) as being unpatentable over De Boer U.S. Patent Application No. 2006/0057826 A1) in view of Hegedus (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,874) as applied to claims 1 and 10 and further in view of Doitel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,944,422). Applicant requests reconsideration of these rejections as well as consideration of new claims.

Claim 1 recites an apparatus in which a plurality of outer rotating radiation conduits are configured to channel radiation to a plurality of stationary radiation conduits. De Boer does not disclose or suggest such feature of claim 1. Rather, De Boer discloses an apparatus in which a single outer rotating conduit (an optical fiber 37 of figure 3C) channels radiation to a single stationary unit. De Boer indicates at, for example, paragraph 0036 that additional optical fibers could be provided in addition to the shown optical fibers. However, De Boer provides no disclosure or suggestion of a plurality of stationary radiation conduits or how the additional optical fibers would be specifically incorporated into the shown device, and certainly doesn't disclose or suggest that the additional optical fibers would be provided in a manner as recited in claim 1 such that multiple outer rotating conduits would channel

radiation to a plurality of stationary radiation conduits. Thus, for at least this reason, De Boer does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 1.

In addition to reciting "a plurality of outer rotating radiation conduits configured to channel radiation to a plurality of stationary radiation conduits," claim 1 recites "the plurality of outer rotating radiation conduits being configured to channel radiation to only one of the stationary radiation conduits."

So the apparatus recited in claim 1 includes a plurality of both rotating and stationary conduits, but is also configured to channel radiation from a plurality of the outer rotating radiation conduits to only one of the stationary radiation conduits. Any reasonable interpretation of De Boer does not describe these limitations because De Boer describes rotating fiber optics such as 37 and 38 coupled to a single multiplexer. The multiplexer cannot be considered a plurality of stationary conduits and the coupling of optics 37 and 38 to the multiplexer cannot be considered configuring rotating radiation conduits to channel radiation to only one of the plurality of radiation conduits.

Hegedus does not cure the deficiency of De Boer for at least the reason that Hegedus does not describe the use of a substrate susceptor. Hegedus describes the use of a support ring placed laterally around the substrate. With such configuration, Hegedus utilizes entirely stationary monitoring devices located below the rotating substrate. To combine Hegedus with De Boer is improper for at least the reason that De Boer describes methods of measuring the temperature of a susceptor and Hegedus does not use a susceptor.

For at least this reason, De Boer does not provide these limitations and the remaining references do not cure this deficiency. Since a prima facie case of obviousness requires that the references, either alone or in combination, teach all the elements of the pending claims, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 10 and 50-51 depend from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for least the reasons for which claim 1 is allowable, as well as for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art. For instance, claim 50 recites that the claim 1 recited rotating radiation conduits are within a shaft, and that the claim 1 recited stationary radiation conduits are within a receptor. Claim 50 further recites a coupling between the shaft and receptor that enables vacuum to be maintained within the shaft during spinning of a substrate. The Examiner rejects claim 50 over a combination of De Boer and Doitel. Applicant notes, however, that neither of the cited references suggests nor discloses the Claim 1 recited plurality of outer rotating conduits channeling radiation to only one stationary conduit, and accordingly the combination of references does not suggest or disclose such recited aspect of dependent claim 50; and certainly doesn't disclose or suggest such aspect in combination with the claim 50 recited coupling configured to enable vacuum to be maintained within a shaft during spinning of a substrate. For this additional reason, claim 50 is allowable over the cited references.

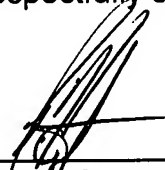
As an additional example, claim 51 recites the limitations of claim 1 and that the rotating radiation conduits are configured to receive radiation directly

from the spinning substrate. The teachings of the cited references do not describe a rotating susceptor with rotating conduits configured to receive radiation directly from the spinning substrate.

Claims 1, 10, and 50-51 are allowable for the reasons discussed above, and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner's next action be a Notice of Allowance formally allowing claims 1, 10, and 50-51.

Respectfully submitted,

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